

Testimony by John Burt:

Thank you Mr. Chair and Senate Committee members. My name is John Burt. I live in Gaines Michigan. I am the technology manager for The Disability Network, an organization serving people with disabilities in Genesee County. Thank you for the opportunity to briefly speak to you today

I have included information in the copy of my testimony about The Disability Network and our services to people with disabilities.

I am a person with post polio and use a wheelchair for mobility. I can do almost everything I want to do except walk. I work, have a family, go to church, participate in my community, farm part time as a hobby and love to hunt.....I always have.

I can testify as an avid hunter on my own property in Argentine Township that is hard to get close enough to hunt birds from my wheelchair. Senate Bill 1045 allows Michigan citizens with disabilities to hunt birds from accessible OVR vehicles at Michigan's game bird preserves.

The proposed legislation for bird hunting accessibility provides safety features for firearm related legislation and a system of certification that insures access only to eligible hunters with disabilities. In addition, Michigan's game bird preserves and our Department of Natural Resources are committed to safe hunting and support this legislation.

People with disabilities do not want special rights. We simply want equal access, and SB 1045 provides that. Much like curb cuts allow people with disabilities to safely access sidewalks like everyone else, this law provides hunting access to Michigan's wonderful game bird preserves and enjoy the traditional American right and pleasure of hunting.

On behalf of the citizens of Michigan with disabilities who love the outdoors and hunting (and voting), I encourage you to pass SB1045 and give us access to Michigan's beautiful and soon to be accessible game preserves for birds.

Thank you to Senator Gleason for sponsoring this legislation and thank you Senators for listening to my testimony. I am willing to answer any questions you may have.



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May 3, 2012

The Honorable Goeffrey Hansen, Chairman
Senate Committee on Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Hansen and members of the committee:

As President of The Disability Network, I am writing this letter on behalf of Michigan citizens with disabilities who love to hunt in Michigan's beautiful outdoors and to encourage you to support and pass Senate Bill 1045, authored by Senator John Gleason. As a person with a disability who uses a wheelchair and loves to hunt, please consider that SB1045 will allow certified individuals with disabilities, access to Michigan's public and private bird game preserves to enjoy the traditional American right and pleasure of hunting.

People with disabilities do not want special rights. We simply want equal access like any other Michigan citizen to our public and private services, such as Michigan's game bird preserves. SB1045 provides that access in a safe and certified manner. Michigan's game bird preserves and our Department of Natural Resources are committed to safe hunting and support this legislation.

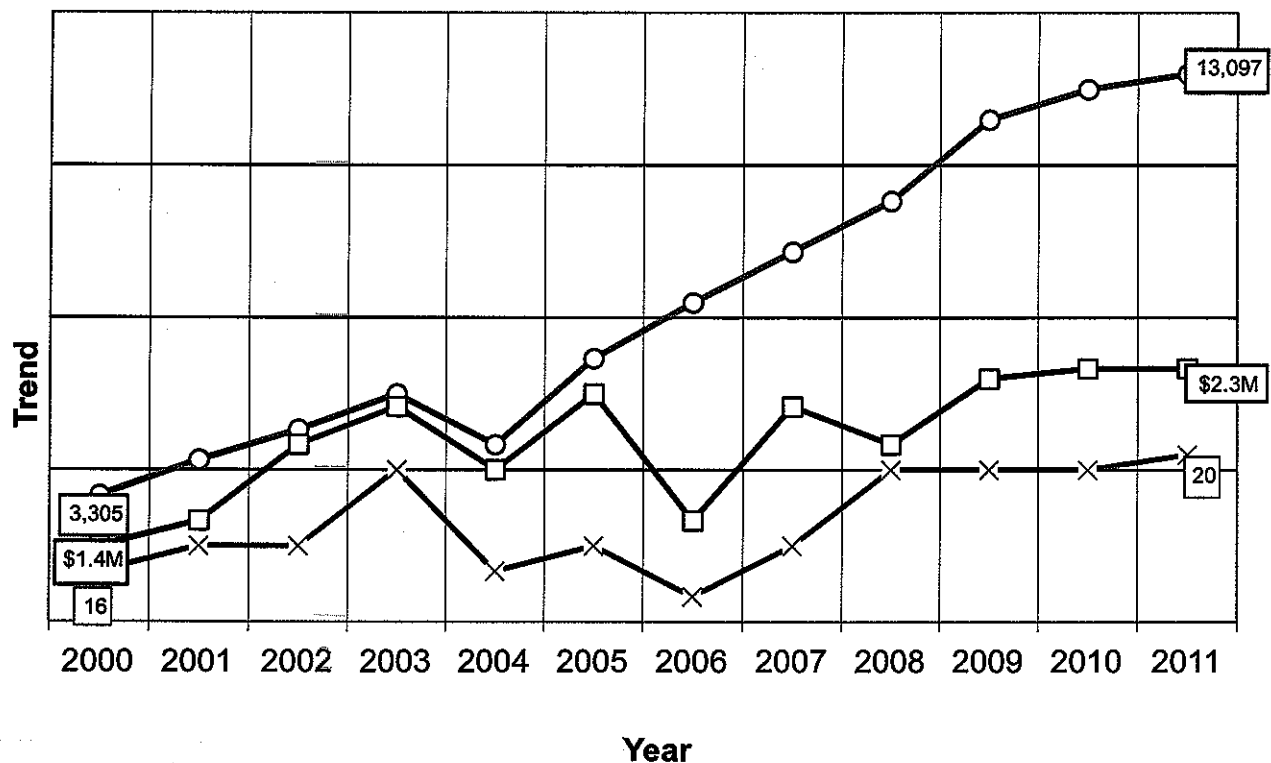
We thank you for your support of this important accessible legislation that increases access to Michigan's wonderful game bird preserves for individuals with disabilities to enjoy the pleasure of accessible game hunting. Please support SB1045.

Sincerely,

Mike Zelley
President
The Disability Network

The Disability Network

12 Year Snapshot - Doing more with less!
Just 9% Administrative Overhead Costs



Tax Payer Return on Investment \$12
 2010 Legislative Report

Consumers:  Budget:  Staff: 

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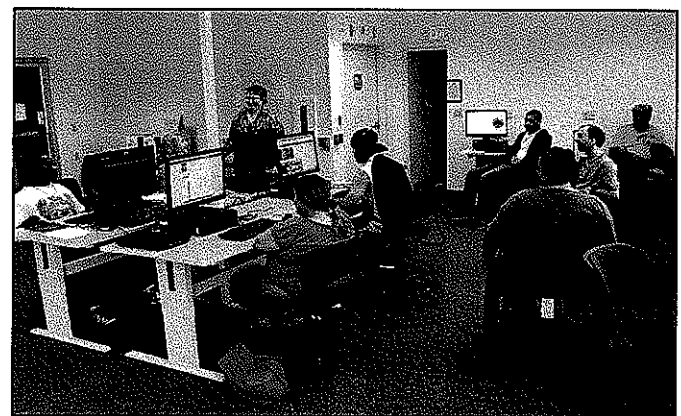
*** See TDN Making a Difference on other side ***



High School Leadership



Employment Luncheon
Award Winners



Computer Technology Classes

We Believe in Freedom and Independence The Disability Network Makes a Difference

SERVING 13,097 PEOPLE:

- Over 1,500 individuals participated in our ADA Celebration Picnic, Employer Luncheon and Holiday Party.
- TDN had 30,000 hits on our website.
- TDN staff and board participated in 120 Boards, Commissions and Councils living our goal of "Nothing About Us, Without Us".

JOBS:

- 478 MRS jobseekers with disabilities were assisted to get jobs.
- 60 people with disabilities in the TDN/MRS Employment Mentoring programs were matched with local businesses.
- Initiated the new Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce Disability Works Committee that trained 15 Chamber businesses to be disability champions

EDUCATION & TRAINING:

- 56 high school students completed the TDN/MRS Summer Leadership program.
- 119 high school students with disabilities received School Transition services
- 399 people with disabilities participated in computer AT classes.
- 3,455 people attended TDN Technology Center supported with 13 volunteers.

HOUSING AND INDEPENDENCE:

- 30 individuals with disabilities received ramps and home modifications.
- 47 people with disabilities transitioned from nursing facilities to living independently in their own homes.
- Land Bank and local builder changed their policy to build accessible homes.



Advocating at Capitol



Accessible Recreation



Building Ramps



ADA Celebration

***** See performance chart on other side *****